


ARMY MEDICAL EXPENSE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING SYSTEM (MEPRS)

The U.S. Army MEPRS Program Office, San Antonio, Texas, publishes and distributes the U.S. Army MEPRS News Bulletin to MEPRS administrators worldwide. We have designed the News Bulletin to enhance communication within the U.S. Army medical treatment facilities.

Signature Authenticated by ApproveIt, 
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U.S. Army MEPRS Program Office

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ATTN: Resource Management

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Chief, Program and Budget Division

Chief, Manpower Division

Chief, Management Division

Chief, Finance and Accounting Division

Director, Directorate of Patient Administration Systems and

Biostatistics Activities

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SECTION I

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Distribution of Messages, Requests for Assistance, Financial Reconciliations, and Monthly Narratives. Effective immediately, all messages, requests for assistance, financial reconciliations, and monthly narratives will be forwarded to the Army Medical Expense and Performance Reporting System (MEPRS) Functional Mailbox with a courtesy copy provided to the Primary MEPRS Analyst at the Army MEPRS Program Office (AMPO). A courtesy copy of monthly narratives must also be provided to Ms. Karen Lameo and Ms. Patti Morelli. Beginning in FY 05, financial reconciliations require Comptroller review and approval. Since the electronic financial reconciliation model does not allow for electronic signature, the medical treatment facility (MTF) Comptroller should be provided a courtesy copy of the financial reconciliation at the same time that the financial reconciliation is forwarded to AMPO. The monthly narrative does allow electronic signature of the MTF Comptroller to certify review and approval.

2. Monthly Financial Reconciliations. Although guidance on FY 05 financial reconciliation reporting has been forwarded in the FY 05 MEPRS Policy and Guidance and the AMPO Helpful Hints for Financial Reconciliation for FY 05, there have been requests for clarification of FY 05 financial reconciliation requirements. Clarification of FY 05 policy on financial reconciliations is as follows:

a. A valid financial reconciliation without any out-of-balances must be submitted to the MEPRS Functional Mailbox and Primary AMPO MEPRS Analyst 'before' the month is transmitted to the Expense Assignment System, Version IV (EAS IV) Repository. If the financial reconciliation is forwarded with an out-of-balance which is not corrected prior to transmission or retransmission, the MEPRS office will not receive credit for submitting a valid financial reconciliation.

b. Comptroller review and approval of the financial reconciliation is required in FY 05. Since an electronic signature cannot be inserted into the protected spreadsheet, please include the Comptroller as a courtesy copy at the same time the financial reconciliation is forwarded to the MEPRS Functional Mailbox and Primary AMPO MEPRS Analyst.

c. Regardless of fiscal year and regardless of changes made to financial data in EAS IV, a certified financial reconciliation must be forwarded to the MEPRS Functional Mailbox and Primary MEPRS Analyst at AMPO prior to any transmission or retransmission. If the MEPRS office is retransmitting, they can use their previous financial reconciliation for that month, refresh the Direct Expense Accepted Report to confirm that the EAS IV financial data is still in balance, and change date of certification on the financial reconciliation.

d. The AMPO office has initiated a new log which will track the date the financial reconciliation is received in the MEPRS Functional Mailbox to ensure that the reconciliation was received prior to the transmission date and time on the EAS IV Repository. The log will also track if the monthly narrative is received within three days of transmission or retransmission.

3. Defense Finance and Accounting System (DFAS) Corporate Server Password.

To comply with DFAS regulations, a 90 day expiration time has been placed on your user password. Please mark your calendar to request a reset to your password before the expiration date occurs. Once reset, it is imperative that you log in immediately. Your access will be deleted if you do not access the system and create your own password. There is no warning from the server that passwords will expire; users will need to set up a reminder to reset their passwords every 90 days.

If you are receiving the error: "530 Login incorrect! Logon failure, so quitting" you will need to contact Ms. Irma Koch @ (210) 527-8407 (primary) or Ms. Melanie Aina at (210)527-8343 (secondary) to reset your password.

4. Resources Information Technology Program Office (RITPO) Web Page. As a reminder, individuals needing access to the RITPO webpage must submit a request to Ms. Jennifer Harrison, e-mail address is jennifer.harrison@tma.osd.mil. Access to the RITPO webpage is required for MEPRS personnel to enable download of EAS IV software upgrades/releases and is also a source of information pertaining to EAS IV.

5. AMPO Web Page – New Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) Section. A new section has been created on the AMPO website home page for GWOT. Information available for download in this section are the latest version of the AMPO Helpful Hints for GWOT Reimbursement of Incremental Supply Expense, and the EAS IV Business Objects queries needed to calculate the workload changes and incremental supply costing information.

6. Monthly Narrative. The MTFs are required to submit their FY 05 MEPR Reporting Monthly Narrative within 3 days of EAS IV data transmissions and/or re-transmissions regardless of published suspense date. As of February 2005, Ms. Lameo and Ms. Morelli have new email addresses: karen.lameo@eds.com and patti.morelli@eds.com. Failure to submit a monthly narrative to Ms. Lameo and Ms. Morelli will be identified as a discrepancy on the Data Quality Site Analysis Summary Report for the reporting month.

7. New 19-20 April 2005 MEPRS Application and Data Improvement (MADI) Workshop Scheduled in Falls Church, Virginia. An additional MADI Workshop has been scheduled for 19-20 April 2005 at the ATIC. Please register online at www.meprs.info or http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ebc/rm_home/meprs/locations.cfm. The workshop outline and logistical information are available at www.meprs.info under "Learning Resources."

8. AMPO Personnel Changes. AMPO would like to welcome several new members to our staff. Ms. Burma Barfield is the new Lead MEPRS Analyst at AMPO. Ms. Barfield transferred from Great Plains Regional Medical Command, Resource Management Division. Mr. Charles (Ken) Kennedy, Management Analyst, transferred from U.S. Army Garrison, Human Resources Business Center, Military Personnel Operations Division. Ms. Debra De La Garza, Management Assistant, transferred from U.S. Army Garrison, Information Technology Business Center, Business Management Division.

9. MEPRS Points of Contact Listing. Below you will find a listing of the MEPRS point of contact for each MTF and their designated Primary MEPRS Analyst at AMPO.

GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND: Burma Barfield

<u>DMIS ID</u>	<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FACILITY NAME</u>	<u>MEPRS POC</u>
0109	FT SAM HOUSTON, TX	BROOKE AMC	Jean Moore
0064	FT POLK, LA	BAYNES-JONES	Bobbie Johnson
0008	FT HUACHUCA, AZ	BLISS ACH	Janice Beam
0110	FT HOOD, TX	DARNALL ACH	Diane Papke
0032	FT CARSON, CO	EVANS ACH	Carolyn Stovall
0057	FT RILEY, KS	IRWIN ACH	Shirley Statton
0075	FT LEONARD WOOD, MO	L. WOOD ACH	Barbara Thorpe
0058	FT LEAVENWORTH, KS	MUNSON ACH	Linda Hixson
0098	FT SILL, OK	REYNOLDS ACH	Lillian Stefan
0108	FT BLISS, TX	W.B. AMC	Cynthia Gray

WESTERN REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND: Jeanie McCleary

<u>DMIS ID</u>	<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FACILITY NAME</u>	<u>MEPRS POC</u>
0125	FT LEWIS, WA	MADIGAN AMC	Steve Samuela
0005	FT WAINWRIGHT, AK	BASSETT ACH	Patty Shea
0131	FT IRWIN, CA	WEED ACH	Nancy Repasky

PACIFIC REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND: Gena Carey

<u>DMIS ID</u>	<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FACILITY NAME</u>	<u>MEPRS POC</u>
0612	SEOUL, KOREA	121 ST EVAC HOSP	Tyler Chase

PACIFIC REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND: Jeanie McCleary

<u>DMIS ID</u>	<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FACILITY NAME</u>	<u>MEPRS POC</u>
0052	FT SHAFTER, HI	TRIPLER AMC	Don McGue
0610	CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN	CAMP ZAMA CLINIC	Lianne Whang

NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND: Burma Barfield

<u>DMIS ID</u>	<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FACILITY NAME</u>	<u>MEPRS POC</u>
0037	WASHINGTON, DC	WALTER REED AMC	Chieko Hernandez
0069	FT MEADE, MD	KIMBROUGH ACH	Leah Graves
0081	FT MONMOUTH, NJ	PATTERSON ACH	Tom Bryan
0123	FT BELVOIR, VA	DEWITT ACH	Loretta Vasquez
0122	FT LEE, VA	KENNER ACH	Debra Arnold
0121	FT EUSTIS, VA	MCDONALD ACH	Teresa Conway
0330	FT DRUM, NY	GUTHERIE CLINIC	Mary Yott
0086	WEST POINT, NY	KELLER ACH	Marie Palmieri
0061	FT KNOX, KY	IRELAND ACH	Debbie Pike
0089	FT BRAGG, NC	WOMACK AMC	Ann Butts

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND : Harold Cardenas

<u>DMIS ID</u>	<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FACILITY NAME</u>	<u>MEPRS POC</u>
0047	FT GORDON, GA	EISENHOWER AMC	Sherry Schwegler
0048	FT BENNING, GA	MARTIN ACH	Judy Mason
0049	FT STEWART, GA	WINN ACH	Yolanda Kelly
0060	FT CAMPBELL, KY	BLANCHFIELD ACH	Jackie Ashby
0001	REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL	FOX ACH	Cathy Collins
0003	FT RUCKER, AL	LYSTER ACH	Cathy Cole
0105	FT JACKSON, SC	MONCRIEF ACH	Cora Hill

EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND: Gena Carey

<u>DMIS ID</u>	<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>FACILITY NAME</u>	<u>MEPRS POC</u>
0607	LANDSTUHL	USA HOSP LANDSTUHL	Denise Rinder
0606	HEIDELBERG	USA HOSP HEIDELBERG	Veronika Lopez
0609	WUERZBURG	WUERZBURG CLINIC	Astrid Freytag

SECTION II

EAS IV Release 2.5.3 Table Update

1. EAS IV Release 2.5.3

a. Army Management Structure Codes (AMSCOs). The listing of AMSCOs provided below has been added in EAS IV Release 2.5.3. The AMSCO mapping to the Department of Defense (DOD) Program Element Code (PEC) is also provided below.

AMSCO	AMSCO DESCRIPTION	Activation Date	DOD PEC
131075.FO	Base Operations - Force Protection	10/01/2001	1XXXX
131075.HO	Base Operations - Force Protection	10/01/2001	1XXXX
131075.L0	Base Operations - Force Protection	10/01/2001	1XXXX
131719.21	Child Development Centers (CDC)	10/01/2000	1XXXX
131720.19	Family Centers (Army Community Services) (ACS)	10/01/2000	1XXXX
435530.00	Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection	10/01/2000	4XXXX
847714.86	Initial Outfitting	10/01/2004	87714
847714.87	Site Preparation	10/01/2004	87714
847714.88	Facility Transition	10/01/2004	87714
847738.20	MTF Enrollees – Purchased Care under Region 1/2/5 Revised Financing	10/01/2004	87738
847738.30	New Resource Sharing Agreement (RSA)	10/01/2004	87738
847743.30	Other Supplemental Health – Care Program (SHCP) Expenses	10/01/2004	87743
847795.10	Base Communications – CONUS	10/01/2004	87795
846276.L5	CONUS FACILITIES RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION - HEALTH CARE	10/01/2004	86276

b. Basic Symbol Limit (BSL) Codes. Two new BSL codes have been approved for use and issued by DFAS.

DOD BSL	DOD Description	Army BSL	Army Description	Activation Date
0130.18G1	Title IX Funding – GWOT	0130.18G1	Title IX Funding – GWOT	10/1/2004
0165.18F1	DOD/VA Joint Incentives Fund, Army	0165.18F1	Joint Incentive Funds, Army	10/1/2004

These new limitations will meet all current reporting requirements i.e. appropriate AMSCO and MEPRS Code of work-center, appropriate Elements of Resource (EOR) for expenditure, etc. The 0165.18F1 BSL will also contain PEC 847720 and 847721 currently contained in the existing Defense Health Program (DHP) BSL 1871.

Address questions concerning the appropriate use of these BSLs through the Budget channels to the Medical Command (MEDCOM) Budget Office. Please provide AMPO with a courtesy copy of messages forwarded to MEDCOM Budget.

c. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Code Source and Relative Value Unit (RVU) Weights. The CY 05 CPT Codes contain Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level I and II codes and full narrative descriptions.

(1) All RVUs are based on CY 04 Ingenix weights (including Lab and Rad), modified as described below.

(2) Work RVU = Physician Work RVU. EAS IV RVU = Physician Work RVU + Non-facility Practice Expense RVU.

(3) Global maternity codes have been assigned a weight of zero.

(4) Military Health System (MHS) high use CPT codes with zero Ingenix weight receive a non-zero MHS weight.

(5) RVU weights of CPT codes with global periods of 10 or 90 days have been reduced to the intra-op value per CMS Relative Value table.

(6) All weights related to modified codes are Ingenix based except those calculated as per the Rules for CPT/HCPCS Codes in Section II 1. (d) below. CPT code 76514 was listed as owned by Ambulatory (A) but was reassigned to Rad (R) based on #3 of the Rules for CPT/HCPCS based on the Rules of Section II 1. (d).

(7) Modifiers use the DOD convention (00, 32) rather than the Ingenix convention (blank, TC).

(8) Codes with no previously assigned modifier were assigned modifier 00. Codes with no previously assigned owner were assigned owner "A".

(9) For EAS IV RVU values only, Durable Medical Equipment (DME) HCPCS codes with 00 modifier in the base file but no 00 modifier in Ingenix receive the RVU weight for the New Equipment modified codes.

(10) The CPT code was used as the DOD (60 character) description for the new CY05 Lab codes with the addition of (I) for a modifier of 00, (R) for a modifier of 32, and (O) for a modifier of 90.

d. EAS IV Radiology and Pathology CY 05 CPT Update.

(1). Business Rules for CPT/HCPCS Codes – FY 03 and future. All codes have Ownership defined. All modifiers for a given code should have the same ownership. Possible values are:

R = Radiology
L = Laboratory
A = Ambulatory

(2) If code is in the 80000-89999 series, the owner will always be Lab. There are other codes outside of this series that may also have an ownership of Lab. If Owner = LAB the following rules apply:

(a) All Codes will have PRINT NAMES defined. PRINT NAME will be unique across Codes, but need not be unique within the modifiers for a given code. Some codes will have PRINT NAME set to the same value as the code itself. This occurs when the Lab Community did not have time to establish a different print name. For FY2003, this will occur for 60-100 codes in the Lab range (80000-89999).

(b) The Service Lab Specialty Advisors provide the weights and lab print names for the codes. If they do not provide a weight, then the secondary source is St. Anthony's.

(c) All 90 modifiers have Weighted Value = 0.3

(d) All Codes will have the 00, 32 and 90 modifiers. The 26 modifier is restricted to certain CPTs and its weighted value has no relationship to weighted value of other Lab modifiers.

(e) Not all Codes/Modifiers will have non-zero Weighted Values defined. Some new codes (adds) in the January 2005 update will have weights set to 0.0. This occurs because the Lab Community did not establish a weight and the CY 03 St Anthony's weight table is not available in time to include their weight in the update.

(f) The Weighted Values for the 32 modifiers will be zero.

(g) Weights will usually be non-zero values but there may be some 0.0 weights for the January 2005 update. The government is considering doing a supplemental spring update after the St Anthony's weight table is available to populate missing weights for Lab and Rad.

(3) If code is in the 70000-79999 series the owner will always be Rad. These are other codes outside of this series that may also have an ownership of Rad. If Owner = Rad the following rules apply.

(a) If Owner = Rad codes will have a minimum set of modifiers defined (00, 26, 32). Additional modifiers of 22, 50, 51 and 99 may be defined if appropriate. When modifiers defined for codes in this range weights may be 0.0 if code is new (add). (See the Lab section above).

(b) The following rules apply when weights are provided for codes with 26 (R) and 32 (E) modifiers:

00 = R+E
 21 = R*2
 22 = R+(E*2)
 50 = (R*2)+(E*2)
 51 = E*2
 99 = (R*2)+(E*4)

(4) Cat III Codes (alpha numeric in format NNNNA): Additional modifiers other than the 00 may be defined (with or without corresponding weights). If additional modifiers are defined, ownership must be set to either Lab or Rad.

(5) For all codes:

(a) DOD Descriptions (60 characters) should be unique.

(b) For new HCPCS codes, use the DOD Description (60 character) as the Long Description if necessary.

(c) The Uniform Business Office (UBO) Program no longer requires the DOD billing rate field due to the transition to outpatient itemized billing 1 October 2002.

(d) All codes will have the 3 Descriptions (30, 60 and 200 characters) defined.

e. EAS IV Service Occupational Code Table. Several Army Occupational Codes will be updated in the EAS IV 2.3.5 release. The DOD mapping for each occupational code is provided below. The UCAPERS SSI/MOS/JOB SERIES table will also be updated in March 2005 with the changes listed below.

Army Occ Code	Service Occupation Code Description	Skill Type Code	DOD Occupation Code	DOD Occupation Code Description	Activation Date	Deactivation Date
003A	PHYS ASST STU	2P	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1990	9/30/2004
003A	PHYS ASST STU	4Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
15P	AVIATION OPS SP	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
15Q	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OPERATOR	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
15Z	AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SENIOR SERGEAN	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
19A	ARMOR, GENERAL	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
Army Occ Code	Service Occupation Code Description	Skill Type Code	DOD Occupation Code	DOD Occupation Code Description	Activation Date	Deactivation Date
21H	CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
21K	PLUMBER	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
21M	FIRE FIGHTER	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	

21R	INTERIOR ELECTRICIAN	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
21T	TECHNICAL ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
21W	CARPENTRY & MASONRY	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
21X	GENERAL ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
27B	MIL JUDGE	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
31B	MILITARY POLICE	5Z	183000	Law Enforcement, General	10/1/2004	
31D	CID SPECIAL AGENT	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
31E	INTERNMENT/RESETTLEMENT SPC	5Z	183000	Law Enforcement, General	10/1/2004	
42A4OA3	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST/FD SGT	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
42A5M	FIRST SGT	5Z	152100	First Sergeants, Sergeants Major	10/1/2004	
42A5O	HUMAN RESOURCES/FD SGT	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
42A5OA3	HUMAN RESOURCES SR SPECIALIST/FD SGT	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
42F1O	HUMAN RESOURCES INFO SYS MGT SP	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
42F2O	HUMAN RESOURCES INFO SYS MGT SP	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
42F3O	HUMAN RESOURCES INFO SYS MGT SP	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
42F4O	HUMAN RESOURCES INFO SYS MGT SP	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	
71L	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1990	9/30/2004
71L1O	ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L1OF5	POSTAL SPEC	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L2O	ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L2OF5	POSTAL SGT	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L3O	ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L3OE4	ATTACH ADMIN SP	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L3OF5	POSTAL SUPERVISOR	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2000	9/30/2004
71L4O	ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L4OE4	ATTACH ADMIN SGT	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L4OF5	POSTAL SUPERVISOR	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L5M	POSTAL 1SG	5C	152100	First Sergeants, Sergeants Major	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L5O	ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L5O5M	POSTAL 1SG	5C	152100	First Sergeants, Sergeants Major	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
71L5OF5	POSTAL NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER	5C	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/1999	9/30/2004
74D	CHEMICAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	5Z	NONMED	Non-Medical	10/1/2004	

f. Recommended Preparation and Processing for EAS IV 2.5.3 Release.

As discussed above, the EAS IV 2.5.3 release will update all EAS IV tables. For this reason, it is recommended that January 2005 and February 2005 Ambulatory Data Module (ADM) and Composite Health Care System (CHCS) Workload Assignment Module (WAM) files be imported into EAS IV “after” you successfully load the EAS IV 2.5.3 release. Due to the large number of CPT code changes, do not import these files

before you successfully load EAS IV 2.5.3, or you will have to go back and reimport and reprocess in EAS IV. The latter part of this last sentence only applies to CHCS files not ADM. If a site brings in the ADM file before loading the release, they will not be able to bring in the file again. EAS IV does not overwrite ADM records so the site will receive thousands of Error Correction Unit (ECU) errors if they try to bring the file in again. If a MTF imports the ADM file before loading the release, they will have to run a recovery file to get EAS IV to eliminate the ADM records for that month and to recover the same records. It is also important that you import your UCAPERS files 'after' you import your CHCS file due to errors which will be created by ICU Hours of Service from Workload Management System for Nursing.

If you encounter an ECU error when you import your January 2005 or February 2005 STANFINS file because of a missing AMSCO in EAS IV, it is recommended that you delete the ECU error. Once you have loaded EAS IV 2.5.3, you should not encounter any ECU errors due to a missing AMSCO. Since the deletion of the ECU error will be fully documented on the Adjustment Explanation Tab of the monthly financial reconciliation, MEPRS personnel will **not** need to go back and reprocess any STANFINS or EAS IV financial data unless they choose to do so.

If you encounter an ECU error when you import your Uniform Chart of Accounts Personnel Utilization System (UCAPERS) file due to a missing Service Occupational Code, the MEPRS office may select a temporary Occupational Code which is very similar to the missing Service Occupational Code. The replacement of the Service Occupational Code should be documented on the MEPRS monthly narrative. The MEPRS office will not be required to go back and reprocess any UCAPERS data unless they choose to do so.

g. EAS IV Release 2.5.3 Testing and Deployment. The EAS IV Release 2.5.3 Beta Test Site is Womack AMC Fort Bragg, Ms. Ann Butts is performing the testing for this release, and we would like to recognize and thank Ms. Butts for all of her hard work and effort to successfully test this release. It is anticipated that the EAS IV 2.5.3 Release will not be available for deployment to the MTFs until the latter part of the week ending 12 March 2005. We realize this will make it difficult to meet the January 2005 published suspense date of 17 March 2005. We apologize for this inconvenience. Unfortunately, the AMPO office is not authorized to grant extensions to published suspense dates.

SECTION III

MEPRS PERSONNEL SYSTEMS UPDATE

1. Uniform Chart of Accounts Personnel Utilization System (UCAPERS).

a. Title 38 Additional Pay Policy Guidance. Title 38 special pay was established for employees in the medical/dental field. Registered nurses (all specialties), dental assistants, dental hygienists, dental laboratory technicians, and physicians, and physician's assistants are now eligible for new entitlements and additional pay. This includes on-call pay, premium pay and new civilian payroll Defense Civilian Pay System (DCPS) codes for weekend differential, night differential holiday pay and overtime pay.

These new DCPS codes do not affect UCAPERS. When costing hours, UCAPERS does not look at the civilian pay codes. It takes the total pay and benefits and divides it among all the hours except the non-reportable hours (C for schedules and At-Home Call for APN, DCP and physicians).

If an authorized employee pulls call at home, the hours will be entered into DCPS using the code of OB (on call for hours outside of the regular schedule, available to come back to work if needed). Hours entered as OB receive cost at approximately 10% of the hourly rate for excessive service.

Direct Care Professionals (DCPs), Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), and Physician under Title 38 will capture the at home call using the category of At-Home Call on their respective utilization.

Employees under Title 38 entering hours using schedules will capture the hours using the exception code "C" – On Call. Employees on call at home who are called into work will receive a minimum of two hours pay.

Both of these codes are non-reportable, do not receive cost, and are not processed for export to EAS IV. This means that the cost of At-Home Call will be distributed among the available and non-available hours entered into UCAPERS.

When an employee is called into work and works less than two hours – two hours will be entered into DCPS therefore, enter two hours into UCAPERS charged to the appropriate Account Processing Code (APC). If the employee works more than two hours, enter the number of hours they actually worked which should match what is entered into DCPS.

We are working with the MEPRS Management Improvement Group (MMIG) and the other services to define policy and guidance for Defense Medical Human Resource System-internet (DMHRSi). Once that is complete, we will immediately notify the DMHRSi sites.

2. Defense Medical Human Resources System-Internet (DMHRSi). Three Army sites have implemented DMHRSi. Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart, Georgia has been using DMHRSi to export their man-hours to EAS IV since July 2004; Keller Army Community Hospital, West Point, New York is capturing man-hours for the month of January 2005 in DMHRSi; and Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado will start capturing man-hours for the month of February 2005. The full deployment decision is due approximately 1 May 2005 with full deployment starting approximately 1 August 2005. Until the full deployment decision is given, we will not receive a deployment schedule. Full deployment is due to be complete by early FY 07.